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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A. Washington, D. C. May 13, 1954 SS 138

Soil Moisture Supplies Improve

The 1954 crop season is off to an encouraging start with recent improvement in soil moisture supplies. Soil moisture conditions improved generally during April--though only slightly in the dry Southwest--and additional good rains fell in early May. Progress of spring work is normal to advanced in most areas, although retarded in a strip along the northern border.

Winter Wheat Crop Improves

Winter wheat made good to excellent growth in most of the country and improved rather generally, except in the droughty western part of the Great Plains. Production is now forecast at 707 million bushels, 29 million more than on April 1. This compares with 878 million bushels grown last year and average production of 833 million bushels.

Rye Crop a Tenth Larger than in 1953

The 20-million bushel rye crop now in prospect is a tenth larger than that of 1953, but a tenth below average. The increase in production over 1953 results from the increase in acreage seeded last fall, largely as an alternative to wheat, which is under acreage allotments and marketing quotas.

Hay and Pasture Improved

Hay and pasture crops made encouraging response to April rains and some periods of warm weather. Based on prospective hay acreage and the May 1 condition of 86, a total 1954 hay crop of 105 to 108 million tons seems likely--above average in total and near average per animal unit.

Hay stocks on May 1 were larger than in recent years due to the favorable winter and close use of field forage, despite shortages in drought areas.

Early Commercial Potato Crop Smaller than Last Year

The outturn of commercial potatoes in prospect for late spring harvest is a fourth less than last spring and a tenth below average. The early spring crop, now about half harvested, is a seventh less than last year's record output, but nearly a half more than average. Acreage of potatoes for summer harvest is a sixth less than last summer and a little more than half average.

More Maple Sirup and Sugar than in 1953

The maple season was longer than usual, beginning early and lasting later. Production of maple sirup, estimated at 1,738,000 gallons, is 39 percent more than a year earlier, and maple sugar production increased 53 percent over 1953.

Peach Crop a Fifth Smaller than Year Ago

The 1954 peach crop in the 10 Southern States is indicated at 10,423,000 bushels. This is about a fifth less than either last year or average, as March freezes caused near-failure in western portions of the area.

Fruits

Prospects for the 1954-55 citrus crops are generally good in all areas. Deciduous fruit crops in the Pacific Northwest were damaged by the late April freezes. In California, the outlook for deciduous fruits and nuts is generally good.

Vegetables

The market supply of spring commercial vegetables will be 7 percent larger than in 1953 and a sixth above average. For processing, the planted acreage of 9 vegetables that usually account for about 93 percent of the total covered by estimates is about 6 percent less than in 1953.

Record High April Milk Production

Milk production during April totaled 11,345 million pounds, 4 percent above the previous April record set last year. Milk production per cow increased only a little less than seasonally from April 1 to May 1, and continued at a record high level. In the first 4 months of 1954, milk production totaled 40.2 billion pounds, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ percent above last year's previous record for the period.

More Eggs in April than Year Earlier

Farm flocks laid 6,271 million eggs in April--3 percent more than in April 1953, but 2 percent less

Current Indexes for Agriculture

Index Numbers	Base Period	April 1954
Prices received by farmers.....	1910-14=100	257
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes and wage rates.....	1910-14=100	283
Parity ratio.....	1910-14=100	91
Farm wage rates.....	1910-14=100	507
Wholesale prices of food.....	1947-49=100	1103
Retail prices of food.....	1947-49=100	1112
Weekly factory earnings.....	1947-49=100	1135
Production Comparisons	Jan. - Apr. 1953	Jan. - Apr. 1954
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	38.5	40.2
Eggs, (bil.).....	23.1	23.8
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	2 2,101	2 2,349
Lamb & mutton, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	2 2,854	2 2,414
Pork & lard, (mil. lb.).....	2 173	2 168
All meats, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	2 5,283	2 5,125

1 March figure.

2 January-March under Federal Inspection.

than the 1943-52 average. January-April egg production this year was 3 percent larger than in the first third of 1953 and 6 percent above average.

Dairy and Poultry Products--March

Item	March 1954	Percentage change--	
		Mar. 1954 from Mar. 1953	Jan. -Mar. 1954 from Jan. -Mar. 1953
	Millions	Percent	Percent
Chicks hatched ¹	310	+12	+12
Chicks placed ²	67	+4	+6
Poults hatched; ¹			
Heavy breeds	9.2	+5	+9
Light breeds	1.8	+5	+37
Turkey breeders tested:	Thous.		
Heavy breeds	³ 4.0	³ -32	⁴ -1
Light breeds	³ 11.1	³ -34	⁴ +46
	1,000 pounds		
Poultry canned	17,156	-5	-5
Production:			
Liquid egg	92,959	+39	+30
Dried egg (egg solids)	3,140	+48	+80
Frozen egg	75,709	+36	+20
Evaporated whole milk	194,900	-4	-3
Dry nonfat milk solids (for human food)	131,650	+18	+25
Butter, creamery	142,295	+16	+14
Cheese, American	86,575	+10	+16
	1,000 gallons		
Ice cream	46,130	+1	-2

¹ By commercial hatcheries.

² 13 principal producing areas.

³ April.

⁴ July-Apr.

Farm Employment Higher than Year Earlier

The number of people working on farms during the week of April 18-24 totaled 8,510,000. This was about a million and a quarter more than a month earlier. The larger than average seasonal increase probably reflected a somewhat greater supply of labor but was also partly the result of very favorable weather. Employment was up about 100,000 from a year earlier; most of the increase was in hired workers.

1953 Meat Animal Cash Receipts Down from 1952

Farm production of meat animals in 1953 totaled 44.6 billion pounds, 1 percent below the 1952 production. Production of cattle and calves in 1953 was the highest of record. Sheep and lamb production also increased, but hog production was smaller than in 1952. Cash receipts from marketings of meat animals totaled 8.9 billion dollars, 13 percent less than in 1952.

1953 Milk Production Record High; Cash Receipts Drop

Milk production in 1953 jumped sharply to a new record of 121.2 billion pounds. Output was especially heavy during the early and late months of the year.

Farmers' cash receipts from marketings of milk and cream in 1953 totaled \$4,370 million, a decline of 4 percent from 1952.

1953 Cotton and Cottonseed Production

The 1953 cotton crop was the fourth largest of record--a total of 16,465,000 bales. This is 1.3 million bales larger than the 1952 crop and 4.2 million bales above average. The value of the 1953 crop totaled \$2,652 million, 1 percent more than the 1952 crop. The average price was 32.2 cents per pound for the season to May 1, compared with 34.59 cents per pound for the 1952 crop.

Cottonseed production in 1953 totaled 6,748,000 tons, compared with 6,190,000 tons in 1952. The 1953 season average price received by farmers is indicated at \$52.70 per ton, with total production of cottonseed valued at \$355 million.

Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers Index Numbers, 1910-14=100

Item	Apr. 1953	Mar. 1954	Apr. 1954
Prices received by farmers	259	256	257
Crops	246	239	240
Food grains	244	238	234
Feed grains and hay	213	208	208
Tobacco	424	443	443
Cotton	267	263	267
Fruit	207	212	217
Com. veg. for fresh mkt	233	246	225
Oil-bearing crops	289	275	283
Livestock and products	270	271	271
Meat animals	299	316	333
Dairy products	263	257	237
Poultry and eggs	219	188	178
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities	¹ 263	264	265
Commodities used in living	269	272	273
Commodities used in production	257	255	256
All commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates	280	283	283
Parity ratio (prices rec'd to prices paid by farmers)	92	90	91

¹ Revised.

Parity Prices for Farm Products and Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity and Unit	Average Price		Parity Price
	Mar. 15, 1954	Apr. 15, 1954	Apr. 15, 1954
Wheat, bu. dol.	2.09	2.06	2.50
Corn, bu. dol.	1.44	1.45	1.82
Peanuts, lb. ct.	11.1	11.2	13.6
Cotton, lb. ¹ ct.	31.05	31.57	35.09
Potatoes, bu. dol.	.532	.702	1.53
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	24.70	26.60	20.80
Beef cattle, 100 lb dol.	16.60	17.10	21.20
Calves, 100 lb. dol.	17.90	18.10	23.40
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	20.90	21.80	23.10
Butterfat, lb. ct.	62.8	56.8	75.0
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb... dol.	4.03	² 3.67	4.75
Chickens, live, lb. ct.	23.1	23.7	30.0
Eggs, doz. ct.	38.7	35.0	47.0

¹ American upland cotton.

² Preliminary.

Farm Real Estate Values Weaken

Farm land prices drifted moderately lower during the 4 months ended March 1, 1954. Although the sharp increase in hog prices and better returns from cattle feeding helped to sustain values in many of the Corn Belt States, declines of 2 to 4 percent occurred in most other States. The national index of average value per acre declined to 120 (1947-49=100), 2 percent below last November and 6 percent below a year earlier. The volume of sales of farms during 1953 was 13 percent below a year earlier and only half as high as during the peak years 1946-47.

The total value of farm real estate is estimated at \$87,580 million as of March 1. This is a decline of \$5.1 billion, or 5.5 percent, from a year earlier. Buildings accounted for about \$23 billion, or 26.3 percent of the value of all farm real estate.

Changes in Land Values and Volume of Sales

	Percentage change in value per acre-		Voluntary sales	
	March 1954 from Nov. 1953	March 1954 from March 1953	Rate per 1,000 farms	Change, 1953 to 1954 ¹
	Percent	Percent	Number	Percent
New England	-2	-5	34	-11
Middle Atlantic.....	-2	-6	30	-7
E. N. Central	-1	-5	28	-12
W. N. Central.....	-1	-5	27	-12
S. Atlantic.....	-2	-5	26	-9
E. S. Central.....	-2	-7	28	-16
W. S. Central.....	-3	-7	33	-13
Mountain	-3	-8	37	-18
Pacific	-1	-5	49	-15
United States	-2	-6	30	-13

¹Years ending March 15.

CURRENT ESTIMATES

Cash receipts from farming, United States¹

Source	April ² 1954	March 1954
	Mil. Dol.	Mil. Dol.
Farm marketings and CCC loans ³	1,992	1,900
Livestock and products	1,444	1,400
Meat animals	805	
Dairy products	342	
Poultry and eggs	278	
Other	19	
Crops	548	500
Food grains	59	
Feed crops	201	
Cotton (lint and seed)	48	
Oil-bearing crops	22	
Tobacco	10	
Vegetables	69	
Fruits and tree nuts	50	
Other	89	
Government payments	24	
Total cash receipts	2,016	

¹For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

²Preliminary.

³Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings, March, 1954^{1 2}

State	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	\$ Thous.	\$ Thous.	\$ Thous.
Maine	8,709	3,426	12,135
New Hampshire	4,514	718	5,232
Vermont	7,966	1,419	9,385
Massachusetts	9,920	4,022	13,942
Rhode Island	1,483	491	1,974
Connecticut	10,199	5,292	15,491
New York	50,795	13,847	64,642
New Jersey	19,061	4,884	23,945
Pennsylvania	45,853	15,106	60,959
North Atlantic	158,500	49,205	207,705
Ohio	67,482	21,323	88,805
Indiana	71,826	20,277	92,103
Illinois	115,428	72,485	187,913
Michigan	36,267	16,043	52,310
Wisconsin	76,964	6,638	83,602
East North Central	367,967	136,766	504,733
Minnesota	82,113	19,058	101,171
Iowa	165,789	42,496	208,285
Missouri	63,011	8,019	71,030
North Dakota	8,861	8,860	17,721
South Dakota	29,820	9,221	39,041
Nebraska	69,264	20,690	89,954
Kansas	43,419	9,856	53,275
West North Central	462,277	118,200	580,477
Delaware	5,754	922	6,676
Maryland	13,659	2,777	16,436
Virginia	20,295	6,058	26,353
West Virginia	6,442	1,488	7,930
North Carolina	19,040	7,873	26,913
South Carolina	7,772	2,983	10,755
Georgia	21,078	10,103	31,181
Florida	10,048	42,743	52,791
South Atlantic	104,088	74,947	179,035
Kentucky	19,600	3,433	23,033
Tennessee	17,170	4,848	22,018
Alabama	14,651	4,215	18,866
Mississippi	12,168	11,321	23,489
Arkansas	13,950	6,991	20,941
Louisiana	10,117	4,048	14,165
Oklahoma	21,134	2,909	24,043
Texas	61,456	19,786	81,242
South Central	170,246	57,551	227,797
Montana	8,627	7,032	15,659
Idaho	11,462	7,432	18,894
Wyoming	5,656	1,643	7,299
Colorado	24,876	5,933	30,809
New Mexico	6,142	2,723	8,865
Arizona	9,174	12,359	21,533
Utah	9,529	1,506	11,035
Nevada	2,218	374	2,592
Washington	15,313	18,234	33,547
Oregon	12,261	8,574	20,835
California	75,560	45,208	120,768
Western Region	180,818	111,018	291,836
United States	1,443,896	547,687	1,991,583

¹All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month.

²For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's
Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost ¹	Farm value ²	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1953 average	\$1,002	\$452	\$550	45%
1953--Mar.	992	452	540	46
1954--Feb.	998	447	551	45
Mar. ³	987	438	549	44

¹Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

²Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

³Preliminary.

For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
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